

CAMINO COMPANIONS

SESSION 7

21 & 22 APRIL 2024

CHURCH & SOCIETY



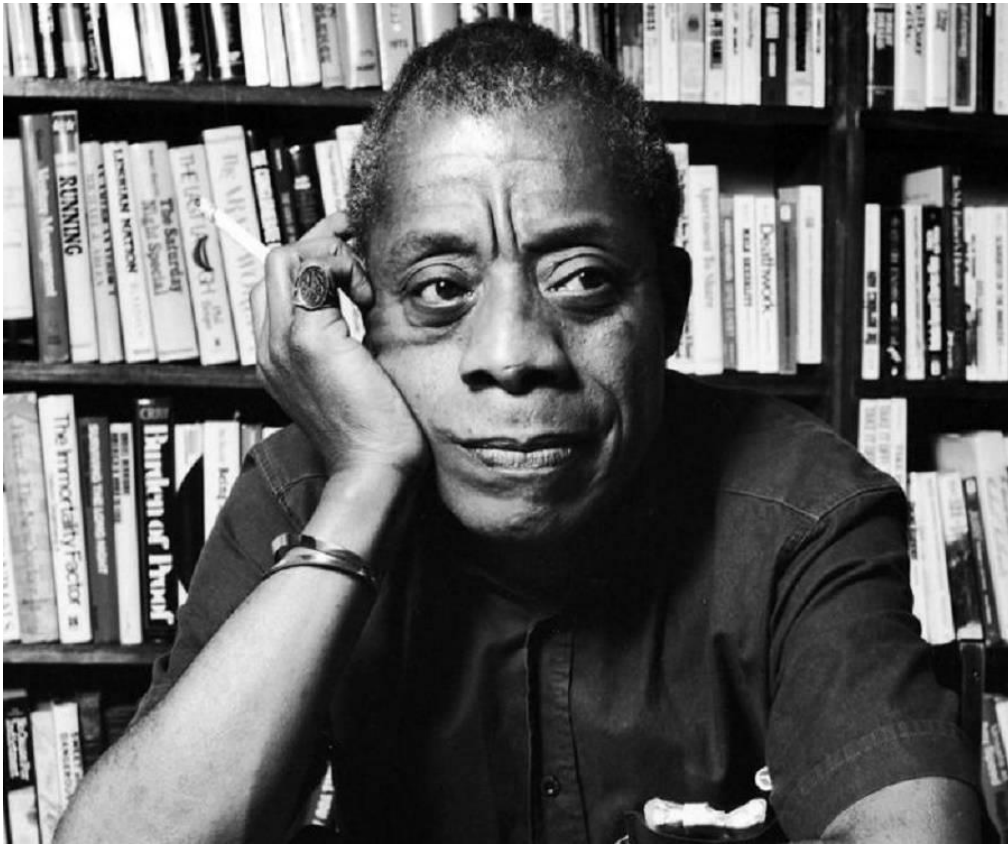
CAMINO COMPANIONS PRAYER

God of our pilgrimage, you sustain us along our path, wherever it may lead and however long the road. Inspired by St James, and all who have gone before us and will come after us, help us to follow you as our Creator and the source of life itself. Unite us as we seek justice, peace, and truth. In your world and in your church, guide us in our travels together so that we may be transformed and shaped by your divine love, today and forever. Amen.



'The Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members.'

- William Temple, 20th-century Archbishop of Canterbury and Rector of St James's Piccadilly



'All creatures are words of God.'

- Meister Eckhart, 14th-
century German
theologian and mystic

**'One cannot deny the
humanity of another
without diminishing one's
own.'**

- James Baldwin, 20th-
century American writer and
activist

From what my elders told me, the battle is between what is close to Creator and what is far from Creator. So it's a real battle, it's real blood, it's real pain, it's real death. It's not like a metaphor; it's a battle. Yet, at the same time, no matter how many of us die and no matter how much of our blood gets shed, there is a spirit that will remain untouched, invincible, and unscathed through all of this...



However, the body of the earth and the body of the people are worth fighting for. And in this time, we have an opportunity to become instruments within that battle. And the fitness of our instrument will depend on how deeply we have healed ourselves and how committed we are to beginning each day in prayer, loving ourselves, and ceasing the cycles perpetuated through us.

- Lyla June, Indigenous musician, scholar, and community organiser

Questions to explore:

- Does being a Christian have an impact on who we are in society both individually and collectively, locally and globally? In what ways?
- What does it look like and feel like to be Christian in public?
- What might be the relationship between 'in here' and 'out there' at St James's? Do these categories exist and if so, for whom?
- What connections might faith have to public life and to politics, now and in the future?





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Audre Lorde:

"When a people share a common oppression, certain kinds of skills and joint defenses are developed. And if you survive you survive, because those skills and defenses have worked. When you come into conflict over other existing differences, there is a vulnerability to each other which is desperate and very deep."

"You do not have to be me in order for us to fight alongside each other. I do not have to be you to recognize that our wars are the same."

"What we must do is commit ourselves to some future that can include each other and to work toward that future with the particular strengths of our individual identities. And in order for us to do this, we must allow each other our differences at the same time as we recognize our sameness."





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